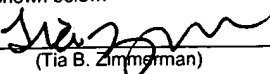


APR 21 2004

whereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV336624054US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 4/21/04 Signature: 
(Tia B. Zimmerman)

Docket No.: 559312000100
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Jianfu Jeffrey WANG et al.

Application No.: 10/687,174

Art Unit: 1645

Filed: October 15, 2003

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: SETS OF DIGITAL ANTIBODIES DIRECTED
AGAINST SHORT EPITOPES, AND
METHODS USING SAME

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests entry on this Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.